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Seventy-third session
Item 72 (b) of the preliminary list*
Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance: comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Group of independent eminent experts on the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In paragraphs 15 and 16 of its resolution 72/157, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to appoint the members of the group of independent eminent experts on the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action by March 2018 in accordance with its resolution 56/266. It also requested the group to convene its fifth session during 2018 and to submit a report at the seventy-third session of the Assembly.

2. One independent eminent expert, Edna Maria Santos Roland, participated in the fifteenth session of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, held in Geneva from 9 to 20 October 2017 (see A/HRC/37/77). The other expert, Hanna Suchocka, participated in the regional meeting for Europe, Central Asia and North America on the International Decade for People of African Descent, held in Geneva on 23 and 24 November 2017.[1]

3. With regard to filling the existing vacancies in the group, in March 2018, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 71/181, the President of the Human Rights Council, Vojislav Šuc, held individual consultations with the coordinators of the African States, the Asia-Pacific States and the Western European and other States. Thereafter, on 3 April, he wrote to the Secretary-General to nominate Ibrahim Gambari (African States) and Saied A. Ashshowwaf (Asia-Pacific States). He also noted that Denmark, on behalf of the Western European and other States, had advised that no nominations had been received by the deadline.

* A/73/50.

[1] See www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Racism/InternationalDecade/Pages/RegionalMeetingEuropeCentralAsiaNorthAmerica2017.aspx.

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4. In a letter dated 6 April 2018, the Secretary-General informed the President of the Human Rights Council of his concurrence with the nominations and appointed the experts in May.